

St Helen's Magazine

August 2020



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

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Cover photo - Trevor Jordan

Editor Writes ...

Most Augusts in recent years we have headed to Beverley in East Yorkshire for a few days, where Andrew spends his days singing with a choir in the minster while I explore the town (and shops!) I love all things arty, and surely there isn't a town more honestly arty whilst remaining feet-on-the-ground than Beverley. Not only does it have a small but beautifully formed conventional indoor art gallery, it has an outdoor gallery of paintings on the sides of buildings and on railings; there's a 'Medieval Town Trail' consisting of 40 sculptures depicting guilds and trades, which you have the added pleasure of trying to spot; and of course there is the Minster itself with its beautiful stained glass including a fine modern commission, and its thought provoking modern sculptures. This month we have photos which are a feast for the eyes – Trevor Jordan, former congregation member and lay reader here, took the cover photo on his 'phone camera in his garden, and the ethereal shot of woodland in the early morning light (page 26) was taken by Richard Vann. It accompanies his article on seeing beauty.



I spotted both of these photos on Facebook and asked if I could use them. This is one of the plusses of social media, although I'm sure we are not blind to its negatives. But Facebook has been a useful tool to us during Lockdown, and continues to be so even as we gradually head back into our building. To see what that looked like, go to page 19, where there are some Facebook screenshots. It also brought us a national C of E event – see page 7, and some wonderful St Helen's Heritage (and more art!) - see page 9.

Another work of art gets an incidental mention on page 29 - a street mural which can be seen from space. It comes in an article about a human being with a beautiful, and courageous, soul.

What I haven't included in the list of Beverley's attractions is the Grade I listed town centre church, St Mary's, founded 900 years ago this year, and described by the architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "one of the most beautiful parish churches of England." Thanks to St Mary's some more art is heading to Beverley. According to the Church Times carvings of Aslan the Lion, Mr Tumnus, and the White Witch from C. S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia are to be part of a £10-million refurbishment.

We're not entirely focused on the visual arts this month. We have, as ever, the beauty of well-crafted words too, including a transcription of one of Mary's Prayers for the Day on page 16, C. S. Lewis fan extraordinaire, Judith Lewis's encircling prayer on page 15, and on page 30 an energetic poem celebrating God's creation.

I also need to mention a 14th-century carving of a rabbit in St Mary's, Beverley, which is said to be the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. But I haven't got time.

Jill Chapman



Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

Ahhhhh - August! What does that word evoke for you? For me, handkerchiefs knotted on heads, ice cream dripping onto hands, fish and chips straight out of the wrapper on the sea front, dozing in deckchairs, the oom-pah-pah of the brass band, sandcastles, paddling in the sea. And breathe....

Without the punctuation of Christian festivals as we know them, or birthdays and anniversaries as we have celebrated them, the months of this year have lost their distinctiveness. July seemed curiously silent without the put-put, groan-groan of Wimbledon rallies, June went AWOL, and May - well, that lasted for a millennium.



So, shall we do our best by August, to live her distinctiveness, even if only in the same back garden, and from the same settee? On days off, or weeks off, could we walk the August walk? - more slowly, that is, less purposefully, with the cuffs of our trousers rolled up - psychologically, if not physically - to dander on the shoreline of our dreams.

In the months to come, there might be something important about this dalliance with our deckchairs, with daisy-chain making, with desultory conversation. The next few months might require more bravery of us, more self-restraint, more firm resolve. To ready ourselves - and, just because it's August, and this is what August beckons us to - let's

breathe deeply, meander without agenda, hear God call us to stillness and to a remembrance that still, even in this strange year, he is with us, he rules.

Much love
Mary



Good to be back on the streets of Ashby

Ashby street pastors are back on patrol in Ashby after many weeks of being in lockdown.

The pubs and restaurants are beginning to re-open and people are able to choose to go out and meet with others - but things are a little different. The night-time economy has a different look.

Things are different for us as street pastors. We have made changes to reflect the changing needs of the people who are part of the night-time economy. We look a little different on the outside (we wear visors) and we are keeping a social distance from everyone we meet, and each other (which is quite a challenge).

We now meet in the churchyard at St Helens church and not inside the Heritage centre. We go out at 7.30 until about 9.30pm. Our prayer pastors share prayers with us over the phone.

What has not changed?

We are *still* a presence on the streets of Ashby on Saturday nights. We *still* have flip-flops, lollies and water to share (Lolly sticks, water bottles and flip flops are sanitised and people help themselves) and *most importantly* we *still*

listen, care and help.

Wearing clear visors enables our faces to be seen and for us to share smiles and share words of comfort and understanding.

The coronavirus has touched the lives of everyone in so many different ways, and for us as Street Pastors we will not stop “doing what we do.” We just find different ways of doing it, and as safely as possible in these “unprecedented times”.

Why not have a look, or another look at, and reflect upon The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)? Our neighbours are around us, wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

Elizabeth Smith

Thank you for creating an e-envelope in Christian Aid Week

I just wanted to drop you a note to say an extra special thank you. Back in May, when you set up your e-envelope for Christian Aid Week, you were part of something really special. Together, the e-envelopes raised over £200,000 which will help make a difference to some of the world's poorest communities.



Your e-envelope raised £770. Thank you so much. Please also pass on our thanks to your families, friends, church and community who contributed. Your e-envelope has also helped us try a new way of reaching out in Christian Aid Week. And we're really excited about developing the e-envelope further.

We are making sure we learn lessons and make it even better for next time. We are aware that some e-envelopes had a problem with the totaliser. If this is the case for you, don't worry, we received all donations made through the e-envelopes, and our developers have fixed the totaliser for next time.

We're really excited to be working on a similar way to fundraise for our Autumn appeal so look out for updates on this soon.

Thank you once again.

With every blessing,

Ibi Evans

Central Supporter Engagement Team

Ashby August Evenings

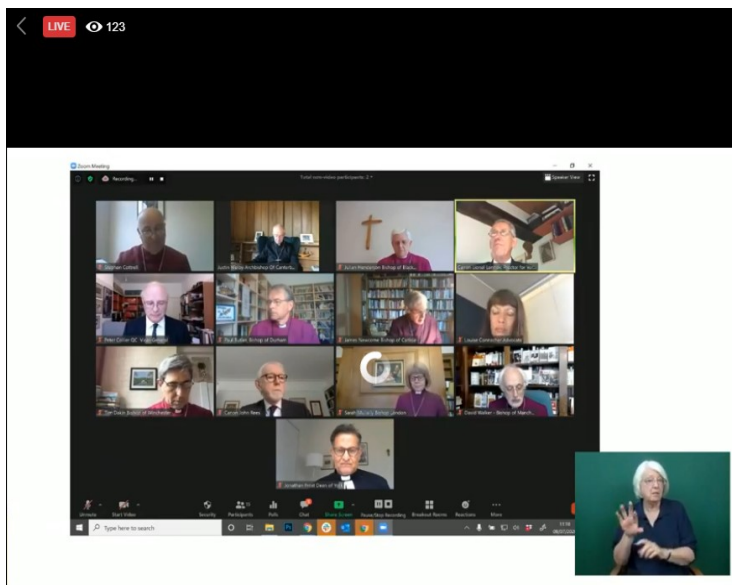
Ashby businesses are being encouraged to offer shopping, appointments etc till 6.30pm every Wednesday in August. This is being promoted by Ashby Town Centre Traders (ATCT) so that shops will be supporting and working with businesses participating in the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme.

Mandy McIntosh is not only part of our Christian family in Ashby, and she's not only a regular contributor to this magazine, but she is also chair of ATCT, working to support businesses in Ashby. And her helpful suggestion? - you can treat yourselves to an evening of 'Retail Therapy' followed by a meal at half price!

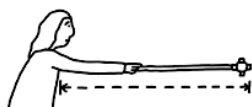


Stephen Cottrell becomes Archbishop of York

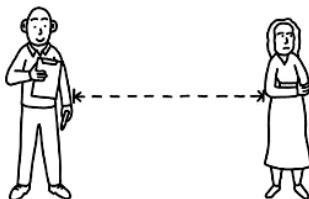
Bishop Stephen Cottrell was confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on Thursday 9th July, not in York Minster, but via a service broadcast entirely via video due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Archbishop Cottrell said of the virtual service: "This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin."



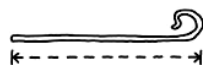
TWO METRES WAYS TO MEASURE IT



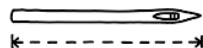
THE LENGTH OF A
WARDEN'S STAVE



A SENSIBLE DISTANCE
FROM SOMEONE
RECRUITING FOR A ROTA



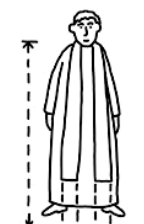
A CROZIER



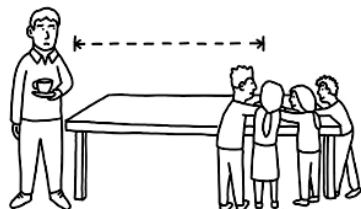
AN ORGAN PIPE
OF APPROXIMATELY
THAT LENGTH



THE DIAMETER OF
THE ARC OF A
SWINGING THURIBLE



1.3 STOLES



AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN
GET TO THE BISCUITS
WHEN THE CHILDREN'S
GROUP IS RELEASED

This Little Light of Mine

No power means no light. So for Joyce and Lamec, who live near to the equator in Tanzania, that meant 12 hours of darkness every day. They, like two thirds of Tanzania's population, did not have access to electricity. When the sun set on their home, everything stopped; there could be no cooking or making things to sell, and no homework for the children.

'I used to lose a lot of my chickens to thieves,' says Lamec. 'Wild animals used to come out at night, often hyenas. They are nocturnal animals so they are not comfortable with the light...'

The alternative to darkness is to use candles, charcoal or kerosene lamps. All of these are expensive and a fire risk to the wood-framed, thatched-roofed homes.

However, alongside the 12 hours of darkness, there are also 12 hours of (usually) consistent sunshine: A clean, natural energy source. Tearfund's partner, Anglican Church Diocese of Rift Valley, came up with a plan. They identified villages in greatest need and started to work with them to install solar panels – helping people lift themselves out of energy poverty ... and out of poverty full stop.

Joyce and Lamec were keen to get involved and were able to take part in the scheme through their local church. They both feel safer now that they have solar lighting. But the thing that brings them the most joy is the better life and brighter future it's creating for their family.

'Now the children and grandchildren come and study here at night. We have a light outside so they can stay out and play safely together,' says Lamec. 'We want them to have a good education and the light helps them to do that.'

Better education will mean access to better jobs in the future. 'The solar light will give the children a better life than we have had.'

Please Pray:

Creator God,

Thank you for the abundant resources you have given us and for how they can be used to help lift communities out of poverty. We pray that even more households will be able to have access to solar lighting, and that they will not have to rely on dangerous alternatives. And we pray these families will find similar blessings and joy as Joyce and Lamec have done in this new lighting.

In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*Prayer adapted from Tearfund's email prayer publication 'One Voice'. For more information see www.Tearfund.org

I took this photo of a solar panel for sale when I visited Uganda. Like Tanzania, also on the equator with 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark. Like water, electricity and all the benefits it brings, is a luxury we often take for granted – on the left of the photo, the water tap has a security cover on it so there is no ‘unauthorised’ use.



Across the valley from our accommodation, in Uganda, in the early morning, I could see light in only some houses helping the families to start their day. In the centre of the picture you may be able to spot a single solar panel on the roof of the house.

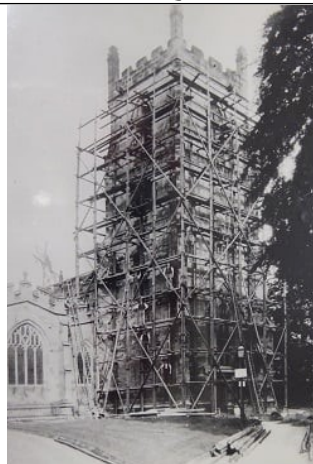


Mandy McIntosh

Heritage

St Helen's Heritage has had a very busy July, taking part in the 2020 Digital Festival of Archaeology week. You may have seen the regular posts on the St Helen's Heritage Facebook and Instagram pages. If not, or if you'd like another look, all of the words & photos posted there during the week have been uploaded onto the 'Festival of Archaeology' page on the St Helen's website [https://sthelens.churchinsight.com/Groups/347269/Festival of Archaeology.aspx](https://sthelens.churchinsight.com/Groups/347269/Festival%20of%20Archaeology.aspx)

The church mice have had a very busy month too!



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Battle On



Of all our online worship, a rich source of variety and, for me, spiritual food for thought has been the morning prayers - the different contributors, backgrounds and styles offer something that is often unexpected but applicable in our lives.

If you have been a follower of the 'Prayer for the Day' slots, you will have noticed that I have been thinking a lot about the Christian's armour, or PPE as I have referred to it with my tongue in my cheek.

It is a wonderful piece of scripture, written by Paul where he is in prison and kept under guard. As I said during PFD, I love the idea that Paul looked out of where he was being held and saw the guard, then inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote these wonderful and reassuring verses (Ephesians 6:10-17).

To look at this passage through the world as we know it now, and as we may remember it before the pandemic, reveals the virus of sin in the world. We live in a world that has been corrupted by sin in different forms: the common three are deemed as Money, Sex and Power.

That is why Christians need to remember their own PPE.

A question I haven't tackled is how do you put this armour on?

Well unlike the early days of lockdown this equipment is readily available; God has provided these pieces of PPE for the Christian.

I think the idea of 'putting on' reveals that this accessibility needs to be applied by us, in our thinking and how we approach life and its many challenges, so that we can, in Paul's words, "stand firm".

However I also think prayer has an important contribution to the process of 'putting on' the armour... something that may be worth exploring in our own lives and in future PFD slots, watch this space!

Stewart Betts



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The Race to End Homelessness

Elizabeth Smith organised our participation in an awareness-raising and fund-raising event on 29th July, supporting the work of the charity for the homeless, Crisis. She then led the way by completing a 6 km run at 8 in the morning *and* a 4 km walk.

The run took place at Hick's Lodge in the National Forest, where each circuit of the lake is two kilometres. Liz was accompanied by Lynne Munro who also did a 6 km run, and by Susan Boardman-Weston who completed a 4k.

Later the same day Liz was back at Hick's Lodge for her second challenge of the morning - a walk for which she was accompanied by Beryl Stephens, Eileen Coombs, and Margaret Worrall. By now this popular destination was busy, and there was the extra challenge of finding parking spaces! It was a brilliant effort by everyone and, of course, it was all accomplished whilst remaining socially distanced.

As Liz says on her fundraising page, 'The more people that know about Crisis, the greater their impact, so please spread the word!' If you would like to donate, go to <https://racetoendhomelessness.everydayhero.com/uk/elizabeth-smith>



Circle Me Lord

July 4th was the landmark day within the COVID-19 pandemic known as 'Super Saturday.' That day at 8am when Judith Lewis led us in our Prayer for the Day, she chose one of her favourite Celtic spiritual practices - the "caim" or encircling prayer. The caim involves simply drawing a circle around yourself or another person physically or in your imagination. They can be prayed in a number of ways. For example, you might turn around as you pray, drawing a circle



around you, symbolising the encircling love of God. Or, as you pray, you could imagine in your mind's eye the encircling love of God surrounding the person that you're praying for. Or you trace the outline of a circle with a pencil on a piece of paper or with your finger on a table. All of these different ways help us to remember that God's love surrounds and encloses us within all his love and care and protection.

A fairly simple Celtic Encircling prayer could be:

Circle me, Lord.
Keep protection near
And danger afar.

Circle me, Lord
Keep hope within.
Keep doubt without.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near
And darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within.
Keep evil out.

Another example is:

Circle of love,
Open my heart.
Circle of wisdom,
Enlighten my mind.
Circle of trust,
Protect my path.
Circle of healing,
Grant me new life.

On Super Saturday, for the first time since lockdown began, we could invite people from another household into our homes, we could eat out in restaurants, we could go to bingo, theme parks, funfairs, amusement arcades, and model villages. Hairdressers re-opened. Perhaps the most headline-grabbing change was that we could go to pubs. And we'd just had the news that whilst restrictions eased for many of us, Leicester was going back into a stricter lockdown. Judith used the framework of a caim prayer as we committed the day and our concerns to God:

Circle us, Lord:
Keep protection near. Keep danger afar.

Circle our communities, Lord:
Keep common sense in. Keep recklessness out.

Circle those anxious about today, Lord:
Keep comfort near. Keep fear afar.

Circle our bars and pubs, Lord:
Keep goodwill and merriment within. Keep anger out.

Circle fragile businesses, Lord:
Keep hope within. Keep despair out.

Circle the high-time economy, Lord - the police, doorstaff, barstaff,
Street Pastors:
Keep peace within, Keep violence out.

Circle Leicester, Lord:
Keep peace and patience within. Keep anxiety and frustration out.

Circle our churches and congregations, Lord:
Keep faith, love and welcome near. Keep insularity afar

Circle us all, Lord
Encircle us with you love
Each one of us, all whom we love
All for whom we pray, and all who pray for us.

Jill Chapman

The Parable of Zoom

Good morning. This morning I'm offering the second of my 'Lockdown Lessons'. In the first, I was reflecting on powerlessness. In this, I wanted to share with you the parable of Zoom.

In the beginning, the beginning of lockdown, when the daffodils were still dancing and we were still Churchillian in our response to Covid-19, radical Rectors and curious Curates and pioneering PCC members signed up to Zoom. No longer able to meet side-by-side they could, at least, meet face-to-face on their computer screens. At first there were many distractions - and not just technological: what a lot of books the Curate has; and what a curious artefact the Reader has, and where did that PCC member acquire their chaise longue and who, exactly, reclines on it, we wondered. And then there were the time lags and the 'Can you hear me?'s and the terribly un-British waving as the meeting ended. (Will we still wave when we can gather face-to-face?)

Amidst all the distractions, the radical Rector (also known as the vexed Vicar) began to notice some gifts of Zoom. Yes, the camera hurt her eyes. Yes, once, she did, in fact, feign a screen-freeze to excuse herself from a meeting so that she could go and watch paint dry. But, still - there were gifts. More people could join her in leading worship. She could see what people wouldn't say aloud. And, slowly, she realised that Zoom was rebooting how people listened.

In committee-rooms interruptions are not unusual: someone is always so eager to get in, to get their point across, to rebut what another is saying that thoughts are often truncated. But in Zoom-land, those not actually talking are placed on mute - the little microphones on their screens switched off - so that the speaker is able to develop their thought, to follow its meanders unimpeded.



In committee-rooms, those who are verbally fleet-footed hold the floor, they nip into the spaces the reflectors create, and dazzle with their dictionary-dexterity, whilst the reticent are silenced and the dreamers never get to say 'I have a dream'. But in Zoom-land, conversational space is shared out as carefully as cake; hands are raised for permission to speak; attention is given to each person in turn, as if we were all dancers in one of Jane Austen's stately quadrilles.

And, in committee-rooms - or living rooms for that matter - the passionate have, occasionally, been known to speak too hastily or rather more unkindly

than they intended. But in Zoom-land, the speaker has first to unmute themselves - and the deliberation of that action creates a pause, asks a question - 'Do I really need to say this? Should I?'

And all of this meant that the radical Rector (also known as the vexed Vicar) wondered if the rules of Zoom-land could be taken back into the committee-rooms and the living-rooms where she spends so much time.

What if we all listened - really listened - without interrupting? she pondered.

What if we muted ourselves until someone else had played out their thoughts fully?

What if made more space for the dreamers, the reflectors, the slow-cooked wise?

What if we asked permission to speak?

What if we held the silence until the reticent had come to their mind?

What if we stayed in our mute mode just a little longer until we were sure that what we had to say was helpful, or encouraging?

James writes, 'My beloved, let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger' (1.19).

A prayer from the 16th century Sarum Primer, slightly adapted:

*God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
and in my looking;
God be in my ears,
and in my listening;
God be in my pause,
and in my considering;
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;
God be at my end,
and at my departing.
Amen.*

Mary Gregory

Service Pattern

We are worshipping together, on-line, and this is our pattern of worship:

Every morning except Wednesday & Sunday

- Prayer for the Day posted on Facebook at around 8.00 am.

Every weekday evening except Wednesday

- Night Prayer streamed live on Facebook, at 9.00 pm.

Every Wednesday

- a simple communion service streamed live on Facebook at 10.00 am

Every Sunday

- a simple communion service streamed live on Facebook at 10.30 am

Orders of service for these acts of worship, and a hymn sheet for Sunday's service, are available by clicking on the relevant link on the website.

Weekend Night Prayer/Compline

On Saturday and Sunday evenings, the invitation is for each of us to pray compline at home, at 9pm, mindful of others who are doing the same.

The three orders of service we have prayed during lockdown are available on the website (or contact the Parish Office and Jill Chapman can email or print and post one to you.)



The lectionary readings are on the website https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/338385/Online_Services_and.aspx and also on each week's 'Notices Sheet' sent out from the Parish Office.

The Church is Open ...

for private individual prayer, every Saturday between 10 am and 12 noon. Rev'd Mary has made a video explaining the arrangements that have been put in place to enable this to happen, which is on the website https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/335533/Whats_coming_up.aspx and on the St Helen's Church Facebook page.

Back in church

At 4pm on Sunday 26th July we held a service of Evening Prayer, which marked the beginning of a phased return to worship in our church buildings.

Inevitably, the service was different to our pre-lockdown worship: everyone wore masks, sat socially distanced, and there were no congregational hymns. But there were bells calling us to worship, there was music from Andrew, as organist and cantor, and Peter, as violinist, and there was what Mary described beautifully as the 'timeless liturgy enfolding us'.



Films of this service, along with all our Prayers for the Day, Compline and Holy Communion services since 30th March are available to watch again on the Church Life page of the St Helen's church website.

A history of Golf in Ashby

The reopening of the golf club in Ashby a few weeks ago made a lot of local people happy and set me thinking about the history of the game in our town.

The website of Willesley Park Golf Club gives a brief history of that golf course, but when it opened in 1920, golf had already been played in Ashby for at least a quarter of a century. On Saturday October 12th 1895, The Leicester Chronicle announced that the monthly medal for golf had been won by Rev. H. R. St John, vicar of Holy Trinity Church. At that time, golf was being played on and around the rifle range which it was said "*affords the club splendid play*". (The rifle range later gave its name to Range Road at the back of Ashby School.) The fact that it was referred to as a monthly medal, suggests that golf had been played there for at least a short while previously. I can find no earlier reference to golf in Ashby, however, although the Leicestershire golf club had existed since at least the 1880s.

At some point after 1895, the club moved to a piece of ground on land near to the Burton Road. Not much is known about the club at this venue, but it seems it did have a pavilion of some sort, as a later newspaper article describes how considerable effort was needed to move it to Willesley Park for the opening of that club.

Although Willesley Park Golf Club states on its website that the club opened in April 1921, an article in the Leicester Daily Post of Tuesday 6th April 1920 shows that the official opening was the year before, although the course was not then complete. It stated that the event took place on Monday 5th April 1920, and that the opening should have been carried out by the Earl of Loudoun, but he was prevented from being present on medical grounds. Instead, his place was taken by his nephew, Captain Reginald Abney-Hastings. Mr J. Sutton, J. P. presided over the proceedings and Mrs Abney-Hastings and Miss Flora Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby, were also present. The first ball was driven by Mr. John Turner J.P. of Donisthorpe, and the first president was the Right Hon. Countess Loudoun

By August of that year, it was reported that work on the course was making steady progress but that the hoped-for completion of all 18 holes by the autumn would not be achieved until December at the earliest. However, the half yearly competition for the Potter Cup was played and won by Mr C. E. Crane who narrowly beat Mr. W. P. Musson by four and two. It was also claimed that, when completed, the course would be "*equal to any in the Midlands and the transference of the club from other quarters to its new sphere was due in a very large measure to the liberality of the late Earl of Loudoun.*"

The club had expanded almost to its present size by 1926 and in 1930 it had

the opportunity to buy Willesley Hall, the former seat of the Earl of Loudoun, which could have been converted into a substantial clubhouse, but the cost was too much and the location too far out of town. On the death of the Earl in 1920, the house and some of the land was bought by Maj. J. Ashworth, a Nottingham attorney, who leased the park to the golf club, and turned the house into an hotel. After 1929, it began to fall on hard times and closed in 1936, after which the house was never lived in again. It was demolished in 1953, leaving only part of the stable block which still stands today.



Willesley Hall, date unknown

source: Wikimedia creative commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Willesley_Hall_1.jpg)

File:Willesley_Hall_1.jpg

In 1939, the club was rescued from near collapse, as reported in the *Leicester Mercury* of 21st June of that year, when the local council “*was able to obtain better terms, so the lease was renewed.*” The president at that time was Major J Ashworth who still owned the land.

During the Second World War, much of the course was given up for agricultural use, but when it reopened, the members were able to buy the land from the Ashworth Estate. A new clubhouse was built in 1957/58. In 2000, a statue of Diana, Goddess of the Hunt, which had stood on a plinth on the 9th fairway when the land was purchased, was restored and unveiled by the Countess of Loudoun, Barbara Abney-Hastings.

Wendy Freer



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Mothers' Union commemorates its founder, Mary Sumner, on the 9th August each year. So this month, I will write about how she came to found this worldwide Anglican women's movement.

Mary was the wife of George, Rector of Old Alresford in the diocese of Winchester, and, in 1876, when her eldest daughter, Margaret, gave birth, she was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. She was passionate about transforming the home lives of families in her husband's parish, and publicized a meeting of mothers in the parish to offer mutual support. Her plan was quite radical at that time, as it involved calling women of all social classes to support one another in raising their children. It was just as well that she had the full support of her husband, as at the first meeting she was so nervous she asked George to take her place. With George's encouragement, 'Just



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share your heart – God will do the rest’, she found courage to speak at subsequent meetings. Her talks were inspired by her faith, practical and down to earth – ‘Remember, Ladies, to be yourselves what you would have your children be’.

In 1885, Mary was invited to speak to the women at a packed church congress in Portsmouth.



She overcame her nerves again, saying, ‘Together, by the Grace of God..... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength.’. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to start mothers’ meetings on Sumner’s pattern.

The Mothers’ Union movement spread rapidly throughout the UK, increasingly with the support of bishops, and then internationally, beginning in New Zealand.

Mary Sumner was active in Mothers’ Union into her nineties. She was a living example of what she preached. From 1900 onwards, she and members started to advocate on issues of key importance to families and children – she campaigned to stop children collecting alcohol from public houses for their families, and for the age of marriage for girls to be raised from 12 to 16. She was not afraid to speak up on difficult issues, nor to act outside the social norms of the time to do what she believed to be right.

She died, aged 92, on 11 August 1921, and is buried alongside her husband in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral. The movement she founded today has 4 million members in 83 countries, putting their faith into action to nurture healthy relationships and to fight for social justice.

Beryl Stephens

To Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of God

The second letter of Peter in the New Testament encourages us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Being a disciple is often described as a journey, and one of the things we should all aim to do on that journey is to explore, broaden and deepen our faith. And I wanted to make everyone aware of Leicester Diocese’s discipleship course – called **Journey in Faith** (JiF) – which will start running in September.

JiF is a one-year course open to anyone who would like to grow in confidence in their Christian faith and discipleship and provides an opportunity for you to:

- explore the teachings and practices of the Christian faith
- think and learn about how your own Christian practices and faith have developed and might continue to develop
- learn together about God as part of a group – learning from each other’s experience



I did JiF about ten years ago, and it was one of the most enjoyable and transformational experiences of my life. To meet weekly with a group of fellow Christians, and to grow individually and together as we explored our faith was an absolute joy. It very much laid the foundation for the ministry I now follow – but JiF isn’t just for people exploring a call to ordained, licensed or authorised ministry; it benefits everyone who follows Jesus.

The course is delivered to local groups in ten sessions per term:

Term 1 Exploring Faith - Sessions include an opportunity to consider our own faith journeys and an introduction to Theological Reflection.

Term 2 God’s Call and Our Response - Sessions include an introduction to the Old Testament

Term 3 Development of the Church - Sessions include an introduction to the New Testament and Church Doctrine - what we say we believe.

Folders of study material will be provided. Written work (or equivalent) is not obligatory but there is an option of completing one small project or essay each term.

The total cost is £120 for the whole course, which can be paid in three instalments of £40 at the start of each term. Group discounts and Bursaries are available upon application.

Journey In Faith academic year 2020/2021 will begin with an induction morning on Saturday 26th September 2020 on Zoom or in local areas (depending on Lockdown Regulations) and continues in local groups the following week.

One of the venues for this coming year is very local to us – in Measham. Alternatively, groups will meet in the City Centre, Framland, Blaby and Barrow On Soar.

If you have any questions about the course don't hesitate to ask me – I really do recommend it.

in Christ
Andy Smith

All Things Bright

We know the song:

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small

Somehow it's dear to our hearts. And children can relate to it because it talks of small creatures, little flowers, little birds, and tiny wings.

We're almost in a woodland of fairies, feeling enchanted.

This song is especially pleasant at the moment, as we live on happy memories and our dreams of the past. And when the small things of life are what matter most, even if it's hard to explain why that's the case.

My joy for four months now has been a daily walk in the countryside. There is a map of the National Forest in the OS Explorer series, and exploring our local woodlands and paths is what I've been doing.

Badger Wood, Penguin Wood, Robin Wood, Harry's Wood, Alistair Wood, Battram Wood, Willesley Wood, and Shellbrook Wood are some of the places visited. They look the same on the map, but each has its own special character when you get there.

Every day you see something different, like two swans and their six cygnets, green woodpecker, greenfinch, reed bunting, reed warbler, admiral and peacock (butterflies that is), fox, water vole, field mouse, and shrieking buzzard. Each week brings new flowers, starting with snowdrop, wood anemone, bluebell, wild garlic, cow parsley, buttercup, rosebay willow herb,

dog daisy, and many others. A veritable feast.

Admittedly, it's been harder over the last few months to access the countryside. Next time we'll be better prepared to get outdoors.

Going back to the song, the small, little, little, tiny, reminds us of the parable of the microscopic mustard seed that grows into a tree.

It's as if God gives us a mustard seed every day. It is tiny, but full of hope. It may be small but it's an opportunity to do something new. I confess that most of the mustard seeds I've been given by God have been squandered or ignored. Yet the nature of God is generosity, and sure as eggs are eggs, I get a new mustard seed every day.

Some people describe a God who is huge, mighty, awesome, and dramatic. That

may be true. But God is also the one who comes alongside and identifies with us, rather than trying to force us into his kingdom and his way of life.

Four months is a long time to reflect upon one's life and the life of the world. We have noticed injustices more, as if someone else's pain has become our pain.

As a church, could we in truth admit the attitudes of the past that have been simply wrong? And now need putting right with deeds as well as words.

You know, people are very polite and do not point out our flaws. Possibly, they just do not come to church because they cannot associate with our words, our descriptions, and our little insisencies. That could of course change.

To conclude, let's be bright, and hope that all will be well, and that the cold wind in the winter will be replaced by the pleasant summer sun.



Richard Vann

Into the Unknown

Since fair2all re-opened on 19th June I feel I have entered new territory. Many of the previous predictable shopping patterns have changed, as has the layout of the shop.

I am getting used to being behind screens and a circle of jewellery display cases but still struggle that I can't pack up purchases for customers as we aim not to touch items that customers are purchasing..

It is still possible to have empty containers of washing up liquid, laundry liquid and

other household products refilled, although I find it a challenge working in rubber gloves. Clothing can be tried on, as anything that is not purchased goes into quarantine for 72 hours and surfaces in the changing room are cleaned down after each customer.

Fairly traded face coverings from Sri Lanka sold well as we moved towards the deadline of customers having to wear masks in shops. I hope I will still be able to smile at you from behind my screens as I welcome you into fair2all, but I too may soon be wearing a mask.

Some of us are adapting to the changes, but don't worry if you would prefer to come and have a brief wander round the shop to get used to everything, and not necessarily buy, you are very welcome.

Equally if you would prefer an appointment, on Tuesdays and Thursday I can offer appointments between 2 – 4 as most customers seem to be shopping between 10 – 2

Our opening hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 – 2, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 – 4. Phone 01530 417286



Mandy McIntosh

A Life of Good Trouble

On 30th July the funeral of American congressman, John Lewis, was held. It was a national event, at which Presidents Clinton and George W Bush both spoke, and the eulogy was delivered by President Obama. When Lewis died, aged 80, he was in his 17th term and was known as the 'conscience of Congress.' Faith infused his whole life, and it was because of his faith that he lived a life of activism or, as he called it 'Good Trouble.'

John Lewis was born into a family of poor sharecroppers in rural Alabama, the heart of the 'Jim Crow' South. The area was so segregated that by the time he was six he had only seen two white people. Hoping to be a preacher, he practiced on a flock of chickens. But after graduation from seminary and ordination, Lewis became active in the civil rights movement.

It was when he was a university student that he first learned about the tactic of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience. He soon put it in to practice. In 1960, aged only 20, he helped organize a campaign where he and other young men and women sat at segregated lunch counters. They were well-dressed and sat still and remained dignified even though their actions provoked such responses as them being kicked, cigarettes being extinguished on their backs, and even milkshake being poured on their heads. What became known as the Nashville campaign achieved the first successful desegregation of public facilities in any major city in the South.

Next it was the Freedom Riders. John Lewis was one of the original 13 recruits, black and white men and women of various ages from across the United States, who rode buses and trains across the South to test compliance with the Supreme Court's rulings that segregated public transport, and facilities such as bathrooms, waiting rooms and lunch counters, were unconstitutional.

They were trained, particularly by role-playing, to respond in nonviolent ways to the harassment that they would endure.

On May 4, 1961, the 13 left Washington for New Orleans in two buses. When they arrived at the bus station in Rock Hill, John Lewis and another rider were beaten, and a third person was arrested after using a whites-only restroom.

In Anniston, on May 14, local officials had given the Ku Klux Klan permission to attack the riders without consequences. The first bus was firebombed outside Anniston while the mob held the door closed. The passengers were beaten as they fled the burning bus. Eight Klansmen boarded the second bus and attacked and beat the Freedom Riders. They were attacked again, with baseball bats, iron pipes and bicycle chains, when they arrived in Birmingham's bus terminal. At one point during the journey John Lewis was beaten until he was unconscious.

Understandably the initial campaign was called off earlier than planned, but the attacks received widespread attention in the news media, and many more Freedom Rides followed. In the end 436 riders participated in more than 60 Freedom Rides. John Lewis, along with the other Freedom Riders, was jailed many times, convicted of breach of the peace. But ultimately the campaign was a success, segregation was against the law, and by November 1st Jim Crow signs were removed from stations, waiting rooms, water fountains and restrooms in bus terminals.



In 1963, John Lewis became the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helped to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. He himself spoke to a quarter of a million people. He was just 23.

But John Lewis is possibly best known for his march in Selma. He was only 25 when was asked to lead the peaceful march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery. He was warned that Governor Wallace had ordered troopers to use violence, but he and others led them across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, a day which became known as ‘Bloody Sunday’. Dozens of nonviolent civil rights protesters were hospitalized that day, shot at and beaten by state troopers. At one point, the marchers knelt to pray, even though this made their heads even easier targets. John Lewis was one of those whose head was struck and he suffered a fractured skull.

When he woke up in the hospital, he would, as President Obama said in his eulogy at the funeral, ‘make sure the world saw a movement that was, in the words of Scripture, “hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”’

Lewis made his last public appearance in June, as protests for racial justice swept the U.S. and the world. He walked with Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser on a street by the White House that Bowser renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza, which had just been dedicated with a large yellow mural — large enough to be seen from space — reading “Black Lives Matter.”

Jill Chapman

When God Made the World

by Matthew Paul Turner

In the very beginning, before anything was
Before God started doing what it is God does
When all that existed was wide open space
God imagined a universe, and began to create
Our planet God made, a blue and green sphere
And designed it to orbit the sun once a year
God made tropics and plateaus, glaciers and meadows
Marshes and tundras and erupting volcanoes
Then
With gardens and forests and other things green
God made earth come to life using soil and seed
God made cypress and pines, bushes and vines
All kinds of trees, with the leaves God designed
Then the ocean God filled with fish, sharks and krill
Creatures God made with fins and with gills
God planned lions to roar and tigers to pounce
And kangaroos, God thought, "Let's make you bounce"
And God made people like you and me
People with souls, people with stories
A global family tree

But always remember - this much is true
God had a purpose for making you you
So use every gift every talent or schtick
Make the world better with your God-given trick
Save a whale, hug a tree, protect every bee
Recycle, re-purpose, reject apathy
'Cause all of creation, whispers God's story
The mountain, the ocean, the blue morning glory
And just like a star may showcase God's light
Or a waterfall gives us a sign of God's might
The same could be said of me and of you
How we live, how we love, tells God's story too
'Cause when God made the world
And the world starts spinning
The story God wrote
Was just a beginning

Quotes for the Month

'According to the government [Guidance for the safe use of places of worship from 4th July] I am now the "Venue Manager in charge of the Distribution of Consumables"
Revd Dr Justin Lewis-Anthony, Twitter, June 29th

'Jesus was a black man and he was born into a persecuted group in an occupied country.'
The new Archbishop of York, the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, Sunday Times interview, July 5th

'There's a special circle in hell for some of the firms who operate our hospital car parks.'
Oliver Duff, editor of The i Paper, July 8th

'GAFCON sad to announce that it's postponing boycotting the Lambeth Conference until 2022.'

The Beaker Folk of Husbourne Crawley, July 8th

'This boat, the Church of England, is not fit for purpose. It cannot accommodate the black and brown passengers it already has, yet it continues to beckon for more'

A.D.A France-Williams, extract from Ghost Ship: Institutional Racism and the C of E, Church Times, July 10th

'When I pray, coincidences happen. When I don't, they don't.' - Archbishop William Temple
Archbishop of Canterbury, Facebook, July 17th

'I think our younger dalmatian has a long way to go before he has much chance of carrying the aroma of Christ.'

Judith Lewis, Compline, July 15th

'We tried to keep two mitres apart'

Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager, newly consecrated Bishop of Horsham, Twitter, July 15th

'Jesus and his followers were change agents and that frankly is what got them all into trouble.'

Fred Plummer, Christianity Without the Insanity, Instagram, July 18th

'#MaryMagdalene is trending in the UK! A wonderful feast day. The apostle to the apostles. The woman who heard Christ say her name at her lowest moment. Last at the Cross and first at the Resurrection. #LoveMaryMag'

Rev Kate Harrison, Twitter, July 22nd

'The whale part – that's like, ok and everything.... but the rest of Jonah is amazing - I mean, you have to love a Bible story where the *least* interesting thing about it is that some guy gets swallowed by a big fish and is spit back up on dry land.'

Revd Nadia Bolz-Weber, The Corners blog, July 22nd

'There is going to be more pain in this nation than we have experienced for a very long time. The Church must rise to the challenge and serve like never before.'

David Stroud, senior of Christ Church London, www.premierchristianity.com/Blog, Jul 27th

'Viral sensation Dr Stella Immanuel says Jesus will destroy Facebook if her COVID video doesn't go back up.'

Daily Mail on-line, July 29th

'I'm quite unpredictably dangerous on a dance floor.'

Rev Mary Gregory, Prayer for the Day, Facebook, July 30th

'Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.'

Representative John Lewis, essay published on the day of his funeral, July 30th

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Thank you

Thank you to you all for your ongoing support both in prayer and financially at this challenging time. We are pleased to say that Helen and Vernon are back at work on reduced hours and are carefully supporting young people, while making plans for the future.

At the beginning of July, for the first time since February, Rock Solid met as a group, and went for a socially distanced walk through some beautiful countryside. Also we have met with some of the 18+ young people that we know through football. These times have been valuable as they've enabled us to support and encourage the young people we know.

We've also been in touch with schools, and have delivered chocolate and cards to schools to thank the teachers for their hard work, while letting them know we are praying for them.

Please pray that as we move forward over the summer, and into the new term that we are able to plan the best way we can support young people in September and beyond, as it is unlikely we will be allowed in schools for the foreseeable future.

Please also pray for the mental health of young people across the country, as being restricted from seeing friends has meant that many have felt isolated. Please pray that long term this will not have a negative impact.

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